

VOTING DEVICE WITH ENHANCED FEEDBACK

Abstract of the Disclosure

The object of the present invention is to disclose a punch-card voting device that alerts the user to the fact that a punching error has occurred. In voting devices that produce a machine-processable record card, such as the Votomatic, votes are counted photo-electrically by shining a light through holes punched in the ballot card. According to the present invention, the greatest certainty regarding what punch-outs represent a valid vote can be obtained only if the same principle is employed to inform the voter as to whether or not his punch-out is going to count. To provide this verification, backlighting is introduced that directs a beam of light upward through each punch-out toward the voter's eye. To achieve the optimum results, this backlighting is combined with mechanical improvements that minimize defective punch-outs.